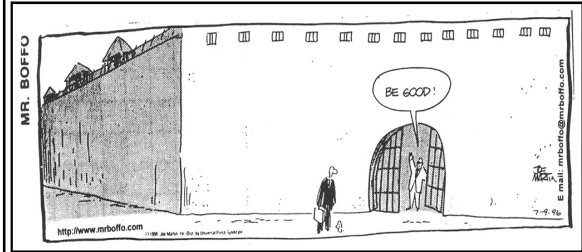


## Changing Lives: The Positive Aspect of Education in Secure Care Schools



Paul S. Johnson  
Leann Gilbreath  
Secure Care Coordinators  
ADE-ESS

## Secure Care Education is more than this!



## Secure Care Education in Arizona

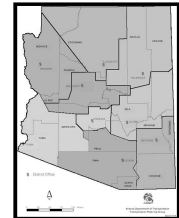
### ■ What is secure care education?

*Education provided to school-aged students while they are detained or incarcerated in county juvenile detentions, county jails, state juvenile corrections, and state prison facilities. Native American and federal facilities are excluded.*

## Types of Facilities

### ■ 45 Facilities Statewide:

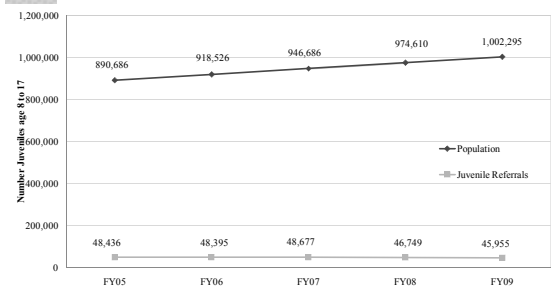
- Juvenile Detentions: 14 county facilities
- Jails: 15 county facilities
- Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC): 2 state facilities
- Arizona Department of Corrections (ADC): 10 state prisons and 4 private prisons



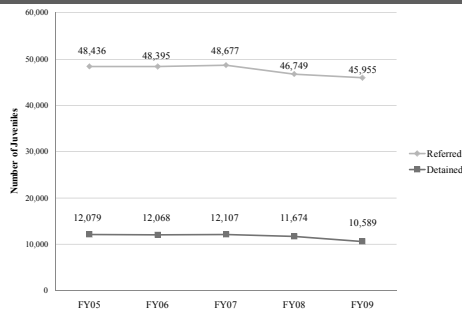
## Juveniles Referred FY09

- Estimated 1,002,295 juveniles ages 8 to 17 in Arizona
- 4.6% (45,955) were referred at least once to Arizona's juvenile courts
- These 45,955 juveniles generated 68,902 referrals at an average of 1.5 referrals per juvenile
- 1.1% (10,589) juveniles were detained at least once to a juvenile detention center

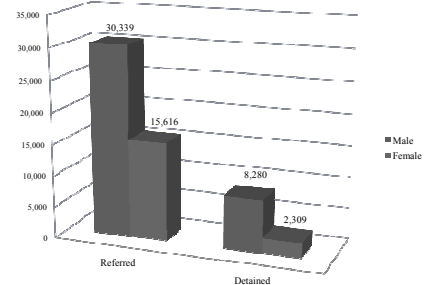
## Population Growth Compared to Juvenile Referrals



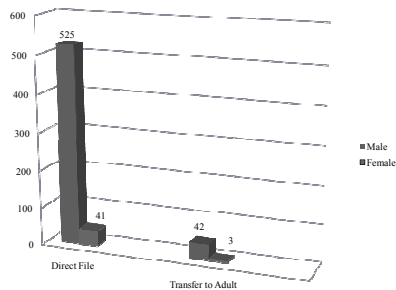
## Juveniles Referred vs. Detained



## Juvenile Males vs. Females



## Juveniles in Adult Courts



## Profile of Students

- ✦ History of school failure and low school acceptance
- ✦ Tendency to have significant academic difficulties
- ✦ High probability of learning disabilities
- ✦ High rate of truancy
- ✦ Many have involvement with CPS



## Progression of Students' Delinquency

- ✦ Truancy and delinquent acts committed
- ✦ Enter Detention Facilities: ordered by the Courts
- ✦ Return to school setting
- ✦ Further truancy or delinquent acts committed
- ✦ Court Appointed Attorneys involved
- ✦ Hearing for adjudication occurs
- ✦ Adjudicated to Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections
- ✦ More serious crimes committed: County Jails
- ✦ Sentenced for felonies, enters adult prison system

## Students with Disabilities

- ✦ The arrest rate among high school dropouts with disabilities was 56%, compared with 16% among graduates, and 10% among those who "aged out" of school
- ✦ Among dropouts with serious emotional disturbances, the arrest rate was 73% three to five years after secondary school

Source: SRI International, 1992

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## Incidence of LD/Reading Deficit

### ✦ Youth in Correctional Facilities

- Median age 15.5 years
- 9th grade (placement)
- 4th grade reading level (mean)
- More than 1/3 read below 4th grade

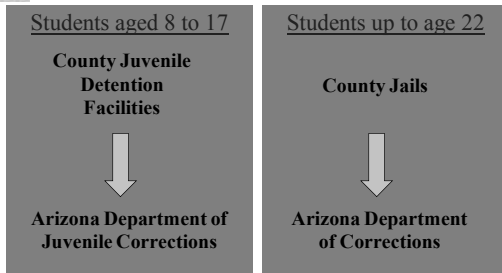
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## WHY TRANSITION?

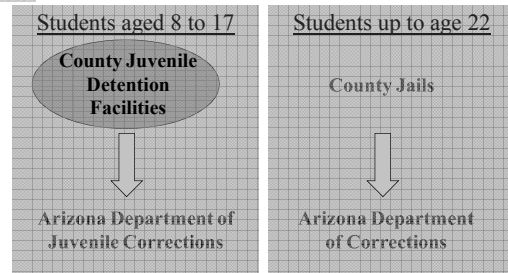
### It is the right thing to do!

*“Youth in the justice system are not bad kids: they are broken kids making bad decisions for which there are consequences. However, our job is to create an environment where they learn hopefulness and earn redemption while gaining knowledge and developing productive skills and abilities for the future.”*

## Secure Care Flowchart



## Secure Care Flowchart



## Understanding Facilities: County Juvenile



### ✦ County Juvenile Detention Facilities (ARS 15-913)

Per statute, the County School Superintendent and Presiding Juvenile Court Judge jointly oversee education programs

## County Juvenile Education

- ✦ Ten counties operate their juvenile facility education programs as stand-alone schools
- ✦ Three counties operate their juvenile programs through accommodation districts:
  - Maricopa
  - Pima
  - Coconino

## County Juvenile Education

### Administrative Oversight:

- If the school is run through an accommodation district, administration is fairly traditional
- If the school is stand-alone, administrative oversight is usually provided by the County School Superintendent's Office
  - NOTE: Apache, Cochise, Mohave, and Yuma County facilities are overseen by the courts; there is less involvement by the County School Superintendent's Office

## County Juvenile Education

### Coordinated Oversight:

- The Juvenile Justice Services Division of the Arizona Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), provides administrative and fiscal coordination in conjunction with the juvenile courts
- Program Coordinator for the Arizona Supreme Court, AOC: Teasie Colla

## County Juvenile Education

### General Information

- Students are aged 8 to 17
- Average length of stay is 12-15 days, or as long as 30+ days
- All detained students attend school while awaiting adjudication, disposition or other hearings
- Students eligible for special education receive services
- Detained youth are released to their homes, residential placement, treatment facilities, or state juvenile corrections facilities (ADJC)

## County Juvenile Education

- Fully certified teachers
- 12 month programming - minimum of 225 instructional days per year, minimum 4hrs per day
- Educational/Diagnostic screening; student-focused educational instruction utilizing both individualized computer curricula and classroom instruction; transition planning
- Curriculum aligned with Arizona Academic Standards
- Accredited by – North Central Association/Division of AdvancED

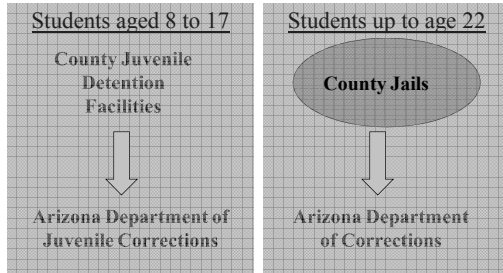


Secure Care Education in Action!



Transition Fair

## Secure Care Flowchart



## Understanding Facilities: County Adult

### County Jails

(ARS 15-913.01)

Per statute, the County School Superintendent and Sheriff jointly oversee programs



## County Adult Jail Education

### Administrative Oversight:

- The County School Superintendent's Office *usually* operates the jail education program directly
  - **NOTE:** Maricopa County Jail (School of Hard Knocks) operates its own school independently
- The County Jail Commander or Program Coordinator *is usually* the jail administrator who commits education resources and authorizes programming

## County Adult Jail Education

### Coordinated Oversight:

- No entity performs coordinated oversight for county jails
- Each jail is run independently, which means that education programs/services ***vary greatly*** by county
- Pima and Coconino counties run their jail education through accommodation districts
  - Looks more traditional, but must continue to coordinate instruction with security concerns

## County Adult Jail Education

### General Information:

- Students are aged 14 to 22
- Average length of stay is short-term, 75-80 days
- Many jails offer educational programming toward a GED, high school diploma is less common
- Special education services must be provided for eligible detained students
- Generally, inmates reside in jail until trial; if convicted, may serve out sentence in jail or be sent to state adult corrections facilities (ADC)

## Education at Maricopa County Jail

- Academic schedule is broken into 8-six week blocks

- Literature/language arts, math, science, social studies, U.S. and world history, and geography



## Education at Maricopa County Jail

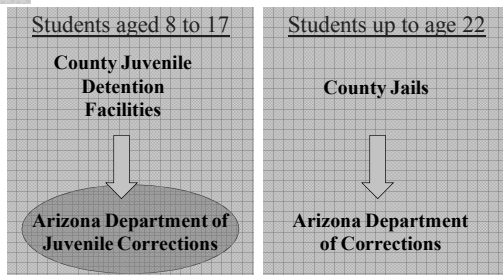
- ED. Options Curriculum
- Computer based curriculum
- Some classes focus on GED, as well as the regular curriculum
- Classes are 3 hours with 1 hour of PE, five days a week

## Education at Maricopa County Jail



- Teachers focus heavily on transition skills that include life and social skills
- Students receive .5 credit hours for completion of a six-week block

## Secure Care Flowchart



## Understanding Facilities: State Juvenile



- **AZ Department of Juvenile Corrections (ARS 15-1371)**
  - The ADJC Education Superintendent is responsible for education programs
  - ADJC serves juveniles adjudicated delinquent and committed to its jurisdiction by county juvenile courts

## State Juvenile: ADJC

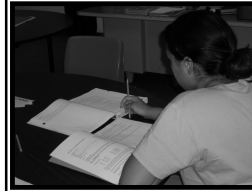
- **General Information:**
  - Students are aged 8 to 18
  - Average length of stay is long-term (avg. of 7.8 months)
  - All incarcerated students attend school, classes can be taken toward an 8<sup>th</sup> grade certificate, a high school diploma, GED, or college credit
  - Special education services are provided for eligible students

## ADJC Reception Assessment & Classification

- **Their first 7 days in RAC/Education:**
  - Academic assessment
  - Career interest inventory
  - Psychological evaluation
  - Technological assessment
  - Career/Technical job skill assessment
  - Start of student portfolio

## Education in ADJC Schools

- NCA accredited high school
- Highly Qualified teachers
- Inclusion classes for special education
- SEI certified teachers
- Course work based on AZ State Standards
- Year round classes, min. of 191 days, 6hrs. a day
- CTE classes
- High school diplomas
- College credits



■ Youth are required to attend school. ADJC offers:

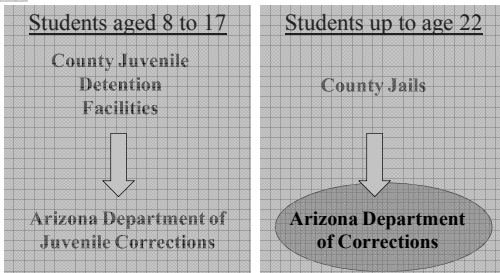
- High school diplomas
- College credit
- School to work programs
- Transition programs

■ Producing skilled workers trained in:

- Building Trades
- Culinary Arts
- Fire Science
- Cosmetology
- Automotive Technology
- Medical Transcriptions
- Drafting and Architectural Design



## Secure Care Flowchart



## Understanding Facilities: State Adult

■ **Arizona Department of Corrections (ARS 15-1372)**

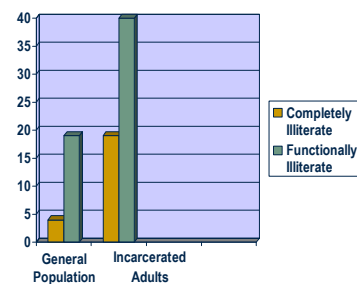
- Correctional Education Program Administrator (CEPA) is responsible for education programs.
- Serves offenders who are convicted as adults (may include juveniles) and committed to its jurisdiction by county adult courts



## Education at ADC

- Statutorily mandated literacy programs in mathematics, reading, writing and language skills
- GED preparation
- Special education services to students until the age of 22
- Transition/Re-entry/ECAP and other grant programs
- Work-based education

## Adult Literacy



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## Reading Programs

- ❏ Literacy-based prison programs are significantly more effective than boot camps or shock incarceration.
- ❏ The more education prisoners receive, the less likely they are to be re-arrested or re-imprisoned.

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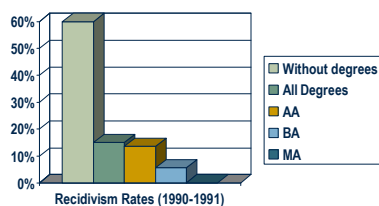
## Literacy

- ❏ Quality reading programs can reduce recidivism by 20%.
- ❏ Probationers had significantly lower re-arrest rates (35% vs. 46%).
- ❏ Recipients of GED had significantly lower re-arrest rates (24% vs. 46%).
- ❏ Inmates with 2 years of college (10% vs. 60%)

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## Education Level

Findings from Texas study, 1994



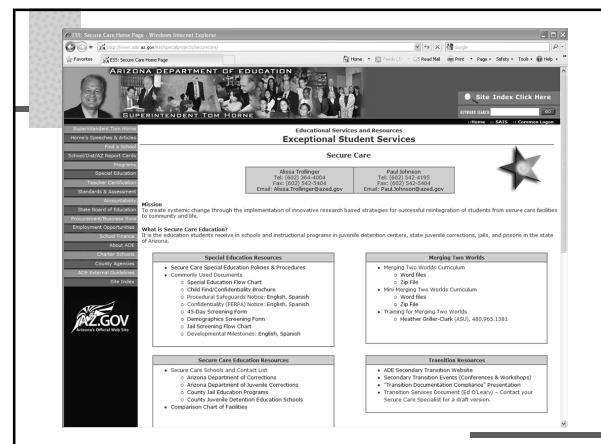
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## State Adult: ADC

- ❏ **General Information:**
  - Students are aged 14 to 22
  - Average length of stay is long-term (approx. 34 months).
  - Educational programming toward a GED, AA, or BA degree is offered at every facility; high school diploma is less common
  - Special education services must be provided for eligible inmates

## Partnerships and Transition

- ❏ **ASU** – Partnership with secure care schools to collect data from students who transition into the community; also, oversees M2W grant from ADE (transition curriculum & training)
- ❏ **ADE/ESS** – Specialists monitors and provide technical assistance to all secure care schools related to special education compliance
- ❏ **Transition Coordinators** – Assist students' reintegration into the community
- ❏ **Parole and Probation Officers** – Assist with students who have left secure care schools





## Program Commonalities

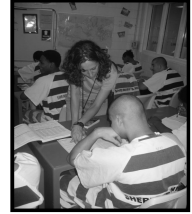


- ✦ School is held all year round
- ✦ Teachers often instruct a variety of courses in multi-grade classrooms
- ✦ Students who qualify for special education comprise approximately 14% - 40% of the education population in the prisons

## Challenges Unique to Secure Care

### ✦ Security vs. Education

- Education is NOT the #1 priority
- Protective custody/isolation & disciplinary segregation ("lockdown")
- Psychiatric/Medical issues
- Accommodations/modifications & assistive technology

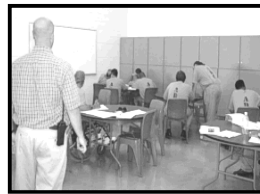


## More Challenges

- ✦ Lack of certified teachers/contracted providers
- ✦ Limited parent involvement
- ✦ Transient population
- ✦ Child Find issues
- ✦ Records issues



## Even More Challenges



- ✦ Transition planning and reintegration strategy difficulties
- ✦ Facility as custodial guardian
- ✦ "One man band" schools are common in rural counties

## Universal Problems for Secure Care Schools

- ✦ Records requests: 5 days to request and 10 days for schools to respond
- ✦ Tracking last school student attended
- ✦ Special education information not current
- ✦ Transitioning students back into the community and into home schools

## How Can District/Charter Schools Collaborate with Secure Care Schools?

- ✦ Seamless transition for all students is the goal
- ✦ Liaisons from secure care schools can attend IEP meetings at district schools
- ✦ Clearly identified contacts for records requests
- ✦ Understanding the needs of returning students
- ✦ Partnering with parole and probation officers when assistance needed for behavioral issues
- ✦ Open to suggestions!!!

## Partnerships with Secure Care: What are the benefits?

- Cost effective: taxpayers support public education at the cost of approximately \$3,000.00 per student
- The cost to the taxpayer for an incarcerated youth is approximately \$10,000 to \$20,000 per youth
- Recidivism rates increase for youth who do not return to district schools or work programs within the first 60 days

## Positive Outcomes

- Increased public safety by reducing recidivism through high school completion and stability
- Breaking the cycle of criminality in families and communities
- Positive contributions to the community
- Increasing taxpayer base while decreasing taxpayer burden
- Benefits – Win - Win



## Questions?



## Thank you!

### Contact Information

**Paul Johnson**

Secure Care Coordinator  
Arizona Dept. of Education  
Exceptional Student Services  
(602) 542-4195  
Paul.Johnson@azed.gov

**Leann Gilbreath**

Secure Care Coordinator  
Arizona Dept. of Education  
Exceptional Student Services  
(602) 542-5168  
Leann.Gilbreath@azed.gov